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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

December 8, 2005

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His Excellency
Ryozo Kato
Ambassador of Japan
2520 Massachusetts Ave NW
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

Thank you for your past correspondence addressing concerns I've raised about the resumption of beef trade between the United States and Japan.

I am writing to applaud the positive decision this week by the Japanese Food Safety Commission that American beef is safe for consumption by Japanese consumers and to again encourage the Health and Agricultural ministries to end the ban on imports of safe, high quality American beef as soon as possible. The decision to stop beef imports in December of 2003 has caused a cumulative economic loss to the American beef industry of \$6.3 billion, directly affecting family farms and ranches in my district in Oregon.

Since the border was closed to U.S. beef, a number of new food safety rules have been adopted in the U.S. and a testing plan has been implemented that, as of this week, has tested 542,103 cattle before allowing them to enter the human food supply. This level of testing is statistically sufficient to detect BSE at a rate in 1 in 10 million adult cattle with 99% confidence.

I strongly urge Japan to reopen its border immediately so America's beef producers and processors, including those in eastern, central and southern Oregon, can again begin selling their high quality product into what has historically been our nation's largest beef export market. We look forward to continuing our longstanding and mutually productive good relationship.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance in helping to continue the rich tradition of trade between our two nations.

Sincerely,

Greg Walden
Member of Congress